

[E. S. Gardner]

[Nebraska?] Interviews E. S. Gardner - Informant page missing. Folklore S - 241 - DAWS.
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FORM A

Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson

ADDRESS R#1 West Front

DATE Oct. 5, 1938

SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant E. S. [Gardner?], North Platte, Nebr.
2. Date and time of interview Oct. 3, 9:15-10:45 A.M.
3. Place of interview County Assistance Relief Bench
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

Library of Congress

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson

ADDRESS R# 1 West Front Street

DATE Oct. 5

SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT E. S. Gardner

1. Ancestry American mixture, Scotch, Irish Etc.
2. Place and date of birth About 1870, Iowa
3. Family 4 children in father's family
4. Places lived in, with dates Iowa, came to Nebraska 1875
5. Education, with dates Sketchy
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Farmer, clerk and inventor
7. Special skills and interests Has invented a wire spring clothes pin and at various times has endeavored to promote same. Holds a patent to same.
8. Community and religious activities Was an assistant in dispersion of relief in the 80's.
9. Description of informant Tall clerical, rather refined type seems thoughtful but somewhat embittered.
10. Other points gained in interview

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Another of the old timers who make an unfavorable comparison of today with their yesterdays.

FORM C

Text of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson

ADDRESS R# 1 West Front

DATE Oct. 18

SUBJECT Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT E. S. Gardner

My father took a homestead North of Cozad in '75, I was about 5 years old as near as I remember off hand. We also took a tree claim, to prove up on which we had to put out so many acres of trees. They had to be cultivated and to be so high. Father had a nice grove, a little of it is still living. Part of it was started with cotton wood slips if the ground was wet, part of it was locust etc.

I herded cattle from the time I was about 9, father cared for cattle of some of the homesteaders by the year or by the season, I herded them as well as our own.

We were 27 miles to Lexington, the County Seat, there were 2 houses between us and Lexington. The Banks houses, Cap Taylor and Old Man Rose moved in later.

There were 4 children in my father family. [We?] had 6 of my own.

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We had 3 months of school a year when we had the money to pay a teacher. [?] months is the most we ever had, but my father was a school teacher, was born in Princeton Illinois and then went to Iowa and later came here. He helped us in our home studies here.

I was collector for the Rumley tractor people, collected around \$85,000 a year. Much of it in partial payments and I never made a mistake in my interest, time or oavment records. I don't lay that to my education thought though I got enough to handle it, but I was careful.

We had better times then than now, had literaries and people thought nothing of going 10 miles to a literary. The literaries were held in a sod school house that cornered my fathers timber claim.

I remember one time I attended a church with a minister at Walnut Grove Church, the [Rister?] Church was 6 miles West. The preacher was a little English Gentleman, you know they'd rather walk than ride. I said I couldn't walk as fast as that Englishman. I lived 1 1/2 miles further north than where he was staying but I'd walk over there and he'd be ready and we'd walk on to the Church and I hadn't walked it long till I could walk as fast as he, he was great talker and it didn't seem long until we made it.

We didn't plant extensively, we depended on our garden and cattle. We had plenty to eat, had our garden and raised our sorgum and had plenty of hogs and beef and chickens and eggs. We had corn and wheat bread, we went to the mill with the gust, took it down and got it ground, stayed and waited, but later got to exchanging. It was about 55 miles. I got up and got started about 4 o'clock and took about 3 days, was well up into the night of the 3rd day when father got back if no storm or anything hindered him. Father never used tobacco now drank but I use tobacco.

I was on the relief committee fot eh distrubution of the relief that was shipped in after the drouth and grasshoppers, along in the '80's. Relief consisted of flour donated by different States, and staples and some times seed didn't need so much seed then because we

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didn't plant so extensively. It was quite a job to get people to take it that needed it and then as now some people wanted to take it that didn't need it. There wasn't so much red